

August 7, 2003



Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Representative Calvert:



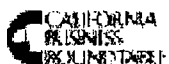
We are writing in support of your efforts to authorize the CALFED Bay-Delta Program through HR 2828. The success of the CALFED Program is essential to the well being of California's economy and environment.



With the state and the nation struggling to recover from a prolonged economic downturn it is critical that we do not hamper this recovery because of a water system in chaos. California faced this in early 1990s when urban areas throughout the state were imposing mandatory water rationing due to drought and policy gridlock. Businesses were questioning whether to expand or locate plants in California, because of concerns regarding unreliable water supplies. Meanwhile, many farmers in the southern San Joaquin Valley received no surface water supplies and populations of key fisheries in the Bay-Delta watershed were declining at alarming rates.



Through the CALFED Program, California has made considerable gains in water reliability, and set the state on the road to economic and environmental recovery. In the past decade, California's water community has invested heavily in local resources, such as conservation and reclamation; substantially increased local water storage capacity, both surface and groundwater; improved the ability to transfer water among willing buyers and sellers; and taken many other steps to improve water supply reliability. At the same time, CALFED has implemented an unprecedented ecosystem restoration program and virtually every threatened and endangered fish species in the watershed is showing encouraging signs of recovery. But the real work lies ahead of us.



CALIFORNIA
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE

We cannot overstate the importance of a successful authorization this year and we appreciate your commitment to moving the process along. Intense pressure continues to stress California's existing water resources and our state's economic future, with focal points on the Colorado River, the Bay-Delta and the Klamath. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has been held up as the model for resolving conflicts in California and throughout the West where water issues are so critical. The program, however, can never realize its potential without federal authorization and funding.



We applaud the concepts contained in your bill HR 2828, which included both an authorization of CALFED and a competitive grants program for projects like desalination and water recycling. We look forward to working with you, Senator Feinstein and the California Congressional Delegation to secure CALFED authorization this year.



Sincerely,

Signatories
(see attached)

Associated General Contractors of California • Association of California Water Agencies • California Building Industry Association • California Business Properties Association • California Business Roundtable • California Chamber of Commerce • California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance • California Manufacturers & Technology Association • Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce • Los Angeles Business Council • Northern California Water Association • Northeast San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce • Southern California Water Committee, Inc. • United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley • Valley Industry and Commerce Association

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